

Highlights of the Week

This week the children are interested in learning about the Continents and the Oceans. They have been introduced to the continent map and globe. Children in a Montessori primary classroom learn about geography through the use of puzzle maps, globes and cultural events. Children will often become interested in making their own maps. They are learning to identify Land and Water and learn the names of the Continents and Oceans. They love to sing "The Continent Song" and "The Ocean song."

The Continent Song : North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Don't forget Australia! Don't Forget Antarctica!

The Ocean song: In this great big world of ours all the oceans have a name. The first one is the Pacific, the next one is the Atlantic. Don't forget the Indian!

Don't forget the Arctic! The new is the Southern. Oceans are water.

Many of the children are asking about map making. They are using the puzzle map to learn the names and shapes of the continents. They are making continent books and by coloring the continent pages in their book to match the puzzle map. They are pin punching the continent shapes and will bring home their completed maps. How exciting!

Next, we will begin our cultural studies of "Holidays around the World." If you would like to give a small presentation about a holiday your family celebrates, please contact me so we can make arrangements for a presentation.

In our cultural studies, we are able to look at realistic and beautiful pictures of people, places and animals from all over the world. We can listen to music, sing songs, study arts –n-crafts, taste foods, and learn to greet one another in a new language.

In Art everyone enjoyed painting with red, yellow orange and brown paint. Some of the children made paintings of turkeys for Thanksgiving. First by tracing a pattern and then filling it in with paint. The children are learning many songs about Turkeys and Fall. Their favorite is "Hello Mr. Turkey!" We are reading Thanksgiving stories such as "The littlest Pilgrim", "The First Feast" and "Stone Soup". The children will be making Stone Soup for our Thanksgiving Feast. They will chop a variety of vegetables to cook soup from a stone just like the traditional story. The children will be making Pilgrim hats or Native American head dress to wear as we celebrate on Tuesday, November 21.

Dr. Maria Montessori's Words:



"Our goal is not so much the imparting of knowledge as the unveiling and developing of spiritual energy."

-Maria Montessori

Reminders:

- First Marking Period ends November 10th
- Parent/Teacher Conferences ***(No School, child care provided for FD/EXD students only)** November 17th
- Thanking giving break November 23-24th **(No School)**

Home/School Connection

The fall / Winter weather has arrived! For full day children, appropriate weather gear is a must. We will have recess daily, weather permitting. Also, due to the cooler weather, now would be a good time to exchange your child's extra clothing for articles that are more suitable for the season.

Shoes

Depending upon the weather, children may change shoes 2-6 times a day. They need to be able to easily put on and take off their shoes with minimal assistance. Difficult shoes cause frustration and make children dependent upon adults to do what they could be doing on their own. Please do not send children to school in shoes they cannot tie, buckle or manipulate on their own. Velcro and slip on shoes work best until children have the fine motor skills and concentration necessary to tie and buckle. Please no light up shoes, they can be very distracting and the children may not concentrate during work time.

"INSIDE SHOES" please bring a pair of "inside" slippers or shoes that will stay at school. Children change into their "inside" shoes whenever they come into the building. Please choose plain slippers or shoes, (no animal or cartoon characters), that are very comfortable, and most important, very easy to put on.

"OUTSIDE SHOES" Outside shoes are the ones your child wears to school in the morning. This pair needs to be the athletic variety, with a sole that grips for running and climbing. Sandals, thongs or any shoes with a smooth bottom are limiting and unsafe in the outside environment.

